

5.9 City of Opa-Locka

Flooding is one of the major concerns for Opa-Locka. More than half of the City, including heavy industrial zones, has either no storm-drains and sewer connections or has inadequate and old deteriorating pipes that cause frequent flooding or sewer stoppages/spillages throughout the City. This causes problems, and raises health related issues for the residents and businesses.

The present City Commission, City Manager and the Public Works & Utilities Departments are making all possible efforts to find resources to build/rebuild roads, provide/maintain new/existing storm drains and sewer drains.

The flooding and damage caused by Hurricane Irene on October 16, 1999, especially at Nile Gardens Area in Opa-Locka was unspeakable. 1600 residents, mostly women and children, were taken to a shelter at Tamiami Park. An apartment complex at 13002 Alexandria was closed and the residents were evacuated. Florida Department of Health representatives detected widespread fecal contamination in the apartment complex. The sewer pipes were flooded and dirty water surrounded the apartment building, causing a major health hazard. With the help of various federal, state and local agencies and officials, the affected residents were provided with temporary places to live while their primary residence was being repaired, and monitored for safety and health. It almost took more than three months to complete the essential testing by the Health Department, local and County Building officials, HUD representatives and local City forces before the residents moved back to their residences.

Hurricane Irene also caused flooding in other sections and streets. Fortunately, no evacuation was needed for the other flooded sections and property damages was minor.

The City's goal is to seek the necessary resources to provide storm drains/catch basins/curbs and sewer drains in the missing sections and low lying areas and to upgrade its existing storm/sewer infrastructure in order to avoid or reduce future flooding problems.

Further information about the City of Opa-Locka can be found in Appendix Q.

Please refer to the maps at the beginning of Chapter 5 for the locations of each trouble area within the north, central and south parts of Miami-Dade County.

5.10 Unincorporated Areas of Miami-Dade County

The Miami-Dade County staff from DERM and the Publics Work Department made a presentation to the Task Force providing technical information for their consideration. The presentation consisted of a series of maps and reports. The maps covered areas showing flooding of properties, streets, and overtopping of canals. The Miami-Dade County Water Control Plan (map) was also presented. The Water Control Plan includes the areas known as Area B and the three special drainage areas known as Basin B, North Trail Basin, and Bird Drive Basin. The criteria for these basins require that land be set aside for stormwater management purposes.

Additional maps were supplied that showed rainfall amounts countywide, and the location of water control structures with stage data on water elevations at those locations.

DERM presented Miami-Dade County's ongoing Quality Neighborhoods Improvement Program (QNIP) which identifies improvement projects programmed for each County Commission District. The QNIP included a series of public meeting in each commission district to gather public comments on flooding conditions. The results provided a complete list of known flooding problem areas at the time of the acceptance of the QNIP report on November 24, 1998.

The Stormwater Management Master Plan (SMMP) is evaluating the different South Florida Water Management District defined hydrological basins that have been identified in Miami-Dade County. This evaluation has been completed for the north end (C-9, C-8 and C-7 Basins) of the county. This area consists of 100 square miles north of NW 79 St to the Dade-Broward County line. The evaluation is on-going for the south basins (C-1, C-102, C-103, North Canal and Florida City) of the county (approximately SW 152 St to SW 360 St and SW 88 St to SW 152 St from SW 147 Ave to SW 187 Ave). Phase I, the collection of hydrologic and infrastructure data has been completed. Phase II, the modeling component is scheduled for completion by February 2002. The goal of the SMMP is to identify and evaluate water quantity and quality problem areas. These areas are then evaluated for possible solutions to the problems identified, whether it is a local or a regional problem. In conducting these evaluations input from county complaints records are taken into consideration. Despite this being a lengthy process the evaluation of the county on a grand scale is necessary to ensure that what is identified as a local problem is not a consequence of regional factors such as high canal stages.

For actual presentation materials and further information on this topic, please refer to Appendix F.

Please refer to the maps at the beginning of Chapter 5 for the locations of each trouble area within the north, central and south parts of Miami-Dade County.

5.11 City of Homestead

The City of Homestead submitted a cover letter and electronic version of areas impacted by Hurricane Irene, based on citizens' complaints. These items can be found in Appendix R.

Please refer to the maps at the beginning of this Chapter for Homestead's location in Miami-Dade County.

5.12 J.G. Heads Farm Unit A Homeowners Association, Inc.

Ingrid Anllo, of J.G. Heads Farm Unit A, submitted information about her association and areas impacted by Hurricane Irene. All documents submitted can be found in Appendix S.

Please refer to the maps at the beginning of this Chapter for the location of J. G. Heads Farm Unit A Homeowner Association, Inc.